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The NUNES Report

Nunes appointed to two key posts

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Quick Facts

In the 108th Congress, Rep. Nunes assisted 1,000 constituents overcome problems with government agencies and is currently assisting 533 others.

Gains Ways and Means appointment; Chairmanship on National Parks Subcommittee

Within a month of being sworn in for a second term in office, Rep. Devin Nunes was appointed to the powerful Committee on Ways and Means and also as Chairman of the Resources Subcommittee on National Parks.

The two assignments are key to the congressman's aggressive agenda in representing the 21st District in Washington, D.C.

Because the appointment to Ways and Means would mean having to give up his seat on the committees for Agriculture and Resources, Rep. Nunes elected to take a leave of absence with seniority to continue some ongoing work on the other two committees.

"This truly is the best of both worlds. As an official appointee to the Ways and Means Committee I will gain seniority even as I continue to serve on the committees for Agriculture and Resources," Rep. Nunes said.

Rep. Nunes can take his seat on the committee when the next Republican vacancy occurs.



House Speaker Dennis Hastert swears in Rep. Devin Nunes for his second term in Congress. Rep. Nunes' wife, Elizabeth, is holding the Bible (Jan 2005).

"The Ways and Means Committee has the broadest jurisdiction of any in the House affecting issues important to the Central Valley. It is a great honor for me and a tremendous opportunity for my constituents to have a voice on this committee," Rep. Nunes said.

Ways and Means' jurisdiction covers issues regarding taxes, trade, health and Social Security, among others. Because of its broad jurisdiction, most bills passed by other committees must also be reviewed by Ways and Means.

As he continues to serve on the committees for Agri-

culture and Resources, Rep. Nunes said he will keep his focus on issues involving water, agriculture, trade and management of public lands.

Later in January, Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo appointed Rep. Nunes as chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks.

As chairman of the subcommittee, Rep. Nunes will have primary oversight of the National Park Service (NPS), but will also hold significant oversight authority over the Bureau of Land

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Nunes introduces Highway 99 improvement bill

Moments after he was sworn in to a second term in Congress, Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Tulare, introduced a bill that would make Highway 99 a federal interstate, as well as make it a high-priority corridor eligible for special funds in the National Highway System.

"You don't have to travel very far on Highway 99 to realize it is the most neglected highway in the state," Rep. Nunes said. "It is the most heavily traveled route from Los Angeles to Sacramento and that kind of wear and tear has taken its toll."

The length of highway covered under the legislation extends from south of Bakersfield to Sacramento.

If the bill is passed, the State of California would need to develop a plan for making improvements to the highway prior to Interstate designation. The Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the state, would retain the authority to waive unnecessary improvements, potentially reducing



Rep. Devin Nunes meets with Rep. Jerry Lewis in his office on Capitol Hill. Rep. Nunes was congratulating him on his selection as Chairman of the Committee on Appropriation. (Jan 2005) (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

considerable cost.

To help pay for necessary improvements, Rep. Nunes wants the stretch of roadway entered into a national high-priority corridor program. This would make Highway 99 immediately eligible for new federal funding.

"Highway 99 is vital to the economic prosperity of

the San Joaquin Valley," Rep. Nunes said. "It is our link to important seaports in Los Angeles and Oakland. It is also our commercial link to the rest of the country. Improvements to this highway would help our economy, improve our air quality and ease traffic congestion."

Nunes appointed to Veterans' Affairs Committee

Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Tulare, was appointed to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, becoming the first Republican from the Central Valley to sit on that panel in more than 50 years.

The appointment brings his committee assignments to three, in addition to an assignment on Ways and Means where he is gaining seniority while on leave.

In January, Rep. Nunes was also chosen to be Chairman of the Resources Subcommittee on National

Parks. He also sits on the Committee on Agriculture.

"It is a great honor for me to serve on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs as a representative of the Central Valley. I look forward to being an advocate for our service men and women," Rep. Nunes said.

"I have met many of our local vets and my office handles dozens of cases for veterans every year. This appointment will allow me to work with the committee to improve our service to our

valued veterans," Nunes said.

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs reviews veterans' programs, examines current laws, and reports bills and amendments to strengthen existing laws concerning veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), such as for health care, disability compensation, GI bill education and job training, home loan guarantees, life insurance policies, and a nationwide system of veterans' cemeteries.

Nunes announces Academy nominees

Rep. Devin Nunes announced today he has nominated 13 young men from Fresno and Tulare counties for enrollment in the U.S. Service Academies.

"It is no surprise to me that we have students of such high caliber from this area to nominate to the academies," Mr. Nunes said. "These students have worked hard to achieve academic and physical excellence."

For the second consecutive year, a five-member committee chosen by Rep. Nunes interviewed the candidates and made recommendations to the congressman for each academy. That group includes: Brig. General Ed Munger (ret.), Clovis City Councilman Jose Flores, Tulare County School Superintendent Jim Vidak, Buckman-Mitchell Insurance President Cliff Dunbar, and former Tulare County Board of

Education President Chris Reed.

The nominees for enrollment in the four U.S. Service Academies include:

Bryan Ray—Camp Nelson

Jonathan Black—Clovis

Joseph Brewer—Clovis

Chase Millard—Clovis

Zachary Sensenbach—Clovis

Matt Camack—Clovis

Michael Montero—Clovis

Dan Asael Solis—Dinuba

Cody Griffin—Exeter

Aaron Dunn—Three Rivers

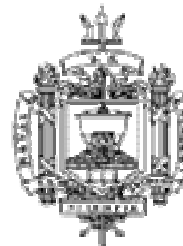
James Potter—Three Rivers

Jose Mora—Tipton

Max Navo—Visalia



**Seal of the
Military Academy
at West Point**



**Seal of the
U.S. Naval Academy
at Annapolis**



**Seal of the
U.S. Merchant Marine
Academy at
Kings Point, New York**



**Seal of the
U.S. Air Force
Academy at
Colorado Springs**

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Management (BLM) and other public lands. The National Park System contains 388 sites covering 84 million acres. The BLM covers 261 million acres—about 1/8 of the land in the United States.

"During his short tenure as both a member of Congress and a member of the Resources Committee, Congressman Nunes has truly distinguished himself as an effective, dedicated lawmaker," Chairman Pombo said. "He is a rising star in Congress and I have every confidence that he will surpass all expectations as a subcommittee chair-

man. The American people will be well served with the gavel of the National Parks Subcommittee in Devin's hands."

Rep. Nunes said he is eager to institute an action plan for the subcommittee that would put a spotlight on numerous areas of concern.

"As chairman of the subcommittee I intend to focus my attention on oil, gas and renewable energy development on public lands, including resources available in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," Rep. Nunes said. "Additionally, I think it is vital that we update and strengthen the Endangered

Species Act and its affect on public access to national lands."

Other priorities Rep. Nunes said he will address are balancing the protection of public lands with recreation activities by visitors, as well as the problem of prolific drug production on public lands. The congressman plans to hold at least six field hearings in the next two years and several site visits across the nation with members of the subcommittee.

"In terms of the committee's oversight role, I believe we need to look closely at the budgets of the National Park Service and Bureau of

Land Management," he said. "There is a need to address maintenance backlogs in our public lands, which are estimated to cost nearly \$5 billion, as well as the implementation of the Healthy Forests Initiative, among others."

The chairmanship is a natural fit for Rep. Nunes whose own district includes two national parks, two national forests, a national monument, a national trail, wildlife refuges and many other public lands.

Mineral King Valley cabins saved



As one of the longest-existing communities in the high Sierra Nevada, many families currently occupying rustic cabins represent the sixth and seventh generation of the original prospectors and entrepreneurs who came to Mineral King more than 100 years ago to seek their fortune.

President George Bush signed into law a provision by Rep. Devin Nunes that would allow the owners of historic cabins in Mineral King Valley to continue to lease them from the U.S. Park Service.

The legislation was part of an omnibus appropriations bill that passed Congress in November.

"This fixes a provision of

the law that would have soon destroyed a group of historic and rustic cabins that have been a part of our region's history since it was settled," Rep. Nunes said.

Specifically, the bill would amend the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 to:

- (1) eliminate the requirement that ownership be relinquished after

25 years or upon the death of the owner;

- (2) grant renewals or extensions of leases or permits on Federal land within Mineral King Valley to the heirs, successors, and assigns of those persons who were lessees or permittees of record on the enactment of such Act.

Nunes: Korea agrees to lift ban on CA citrus

The Korean government contacted Rep. Devin Nunes to announce they were prepared to lift a ban on California citrus shipments.

In April, the Korean National Plant Quarantine Service banned the importation of oranges from Fresno and Tulare counties because inspectors in that country supposedly detected a fungus called *Septoria* ci-

tri. These shipments represent more than \$80 million in local farm income.

"I am gratified that the Korean government has agreed to lift the ban on California citrus. Our produce is of the highest quality and is the safest in the world," said Rep. Nunes, a member of the Agriculture Committee. "Korea is our largest export market for oranges and it is

essential to maintain a healthy and fair trading relationship."

Although tests in the U.S. showed no signs of the fungus, industry officials, in conjunction with the USDA, moved quickly to respond to Korean concerns by enhancing its inspection protocol, making certain that potentially infected fruit does not leave the state.

In the first term

During his first, Rep. Nunes cast 1,221 recorded votes on issues that are vital to the United States.

Also during that first term, Rep. Nunes wrote to 28,602 constituents in response to their inquiries via the U.S. Mail.